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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/085,614	02/28/2002	William R. Rehman	11694-04182 (98-134D)	8104

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EXAMINER

KOCH, GEORGE R

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1734	8

DATE MAILED: 08/27/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/085,614	REHMAN ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	George R. Koch III	1734

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 July 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 31,33 and 34 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 31, 33-34 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 31-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lader (US 5,622,313).

As to claim 31 in general, Lader discloses an apparatus for spraying powder coating material having a powder flow path (see Figure 1, for example), wherein the powder flow path has a charging surface for triboelectrically charging powder which comes in contact with the charging surface. Lader discloses a corona treatment device, which is an electrical conductor adjacent the charging surface (see column 5, line 22 to column 7, line 25). Furthermore, the spray gun is capable of charging to a negative polarity. See column 5, lines 50-61, which disclose a range of positive or negative 100 KV. Lader discloses that the component is constructed of a material that charges to a negative polarity (column 5, lines 32-49). The corona treatment device is considered capable of treating the powder.

As to claim 33, Lader discloses that the nozzle, represented by item 13, is made of PTFE, a negative tribocharging material.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 34 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lader, as applied to claim 31 above, and further in view of any of (1) (a) Handbook of Plastic Compounds, Elastomers and Resins with (b) Powder Coating : The complete finisher's handbook 1st Edition (2) Conductive Polymers and Plastics or (3) Mammino (US 5,683,844) or (4) Peck (4,090,666) and the Delrin AF fact sheet from Insterstate Plastics (published in 1999) or (5) Walberg (US 3,896,994).

Lader does not disclose that any of the claimed materials can form the tribocharging surface. However, Lader does disclose that materials used as powders can be reversed to be used as charging surfaces, and vice versa (see column 1, lines 56-64).

As to the aminoplastic resin, Handbook of Plastic Compounds, Elastomers and Resins discloses that it is known to use aminoplastic resins as a coating material for automobile primer and enamel applications (for example, any of the Uformite ® entries

on page 65). Automobile painting is conventionally performed by an electrostatic coating process (for example, see page 1 of Powder Coating, which discloses that electrostatic powder spray is the most common form of spraying in industrial applications). Under the reversibility principle disclosed in Lader, these aminoplastic resins can also be used as charging surfaces. Such a charging surface would allow for the application of different powders and would improve coating versatility in an industrial environment. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have utilized an aminoplastic as the charging surface.

As to the polyamide or polyamide resin blends, Conductive Polymers and Plastics (in pages 181-187) discloses polyamide resin blends such as polyphenylene ether and polyamide as a coating material for electrostatic coating. Under the reversibility principle disclosed in Lader, these polyamide resin blends can also be used as charging surfaces. Such a charging surface would allow for the application of different powders and would improve coating versatility in an industrial environment. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have utilized a polyamide resin blend as the charging surface.

As to the polyamide or fiber reinforced polyamide, Mammino discloses fiber reinforced polyamide such as fibrillated PTFE (see columns 5 through 7 and polyamide as a coating material for electrostatic coating applications. Under the reversibility principle disclosed in Lader, these fiber reinforced polyamides can also be used as charging surfaces. Such a charging surface would allow for the application of different powders and would improve coating versatility in an industrial environment. Therefore,

it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have utilized a fiber reinforced polyamides as the charging surface.

As to the polyamide or acetal polymer, Peck discloses that it is known to use delrin (an acetal polymer), nylon (a polyamide) and Teflon in the fluid flow due to their excellent transfer efficiencies. Further, the specifications for delrin AF (a mixture), published in 1999, disclose that delrin AF, an ac has similar dielectric properties to ordinary delrin. Ordinary delrin has a dielectric constant of 3.7 and a dielectric strength of 380 Volts/mil, and delrin AF has a dielectric constant of 3.1 and a dielectric strength of 400 Volts/mil. Since triboelectric charging effectiveness is a factor of dielectric properties, one in the art would appreciate that delrin AF is an acceptable substitute of the delrin surface cited in Peck. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have utilized an acetal polymer combined with polytetrafluoroethylene fibers such as Delrin AF as part of the charging surface in Lader since Peck discloses using delrin and delrin AF is equivalent to delrin, and such a substitution could lead to improved transfer properties.

As to another version of an acetal polymer, Walberg discloses that the internal mix cap, a part of the fluid flow, is manufactured from Celcon, cited by applicant as an acetal copolymer. Such a charging surface would allow for the application of different powders and would improve coating versatility in an industrial environment. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have utilized an acetal copolymer as part of the charging surface.

Furthermore, official notice is taken that is considered well known and conventional to mix the above materials to form a tribocharging surface, in order to modulate the charging of the powder.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 7-14-2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

6. In response to applicant's argument that Lader does not teach the actual act of using a negative polarity for both the electrode and the tribocharging material, a recitation of the intended use of the claimed invention must result in a structural difference between the claimed invention and the prior art in order to patentably distinguish the claimed invention from the prior art. If the prior art structure is capable of performing the intended use, then it meets the claim. In a claim drawn to a process of making, the intended use must result in a manipulative difference as compared to the prior art. See *In re Casey*, 152 USPQ 235 (CCPA 1967) and *In re Otto*, 136 USPQ 458, 459 (CCPA 1963). Furthermore, it is noted that Lader teaches both 1) a negative tribocharging material in the apparatus - PTFE (column 5, lines 32-49), and 2) the capability of performing corona treating at either a positive or negative polarity. The corona treatment is considered capable of treating the powder.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to George R. Koch III whose telephone number is (703) 305-3435 (TDD only). If the applicant cannot make a direct TDD-to-TDD call, the applicant can communicate by calling the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8339 and giving the operator the above TDD number. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 10-7.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Crispino can be reached on (703) 308-3853. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)

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305-7718 for regular communications and (703) 305-3599 for After Final
communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or
proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-
0661.



George R. Koch III
August 13, 2003



RICHARD CRISPINO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700